

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A load distribution method adopted by a client-server system comprising a plurality of clients and a server cluster, which includes a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients and allows the number of said servers to be changed dynamically, wherein each of said clients:

detects the number of servers composing said server cluster;

right after detecting an increase in said number of servers, sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers; and

transmits out requests to said servers on the basis of said set allocation.

2. A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value increasing with the lapse of time.

3. A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein said detection of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.

4. A load distribution method according to claim 1,

wherein each of said clients:

acquires information on a performance of said newly added server; and

sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to
5 said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.

5. A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein each of said clients:

acquires information on a state of said newly added
10 server; and

sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.

6. A load distribution method according to claim 5,
15 wherein said information on a state of said newly added server includes at least a cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio or the number of requests each waiting for a processing turn.

7. A load distribution method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein:

20 said client-server system has a management server for managing the number of servers composing said server cluster; and

a notice received from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger
25 of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a value small

in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.

8. A load distribution method according to claim 1
wherein:

said client-server system has a management server for
5 acquiring information on a performance of each of said servers;
and

each of said clients:

acquires said information on a performance of each
of said servers;

10 sets said allocation of requests transmissible out
to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired
information.

9. A load distribution method according to any one of
claims 1 to 8, wherein each of said clients sets said allocation
15 of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by
setting the number of connections for communications with said
servers.

10. A load distribution method according to claim 1,
wherein each of said clients sets an allocation of requests
20 transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas
each set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment
of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

11. A load distribution method according to claim 10
wherein:

25 said client-server system has storage apparatus
connected to said servers;

each of said servers holds directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus; and

each of said clients sets said allocation of requests
5 transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server where said allotment of said directory information storable in said individual server represents an
10 allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

12. A client-server system comprising a plurality of clients and a server cluster, which includes a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients
15 and allows the number of said servers to be changed dynamically, wherein:

each of said clients includes:

a load-setting unit for setting an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers;

20 a server-count detection unit for detecting the number of servers composing said server cluster; and

a load distribution unit for transmitting out requests to each of said servers on the basis of allocations each set by said load-setting unit as said allocation of
25 requests transmissible out to each of said servers; and

right after said server-count detection unit detects an

increase in said number of servers, said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value small in comparison with that set for each of said other servers.

5 13. A client-server system according to claim 12 wherein:
each of said clients has an allotment-holding unit for holding an allotment set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server; and

10 said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as said allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

15 14. A client-server system according to claim 13, said client-server system further comprising storage apparatus connected to said servers wherein:

each of said servers is provided with a directory-information-holding unit for holding directory information
20 indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus;

said clients are provided with a management server for holding quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information storable
25 in said individual server; and

said load-setting unit sets said allocation of requests

transmissible out to each of said servers by changing said quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server.